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**SNOW DAYS** SCHOOLS UNDER FIRE FOR STAYING OPEN



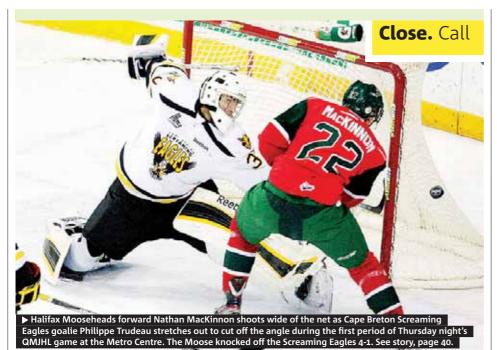


**HALIFAX** et

Weekend, November 25-27, 2011 www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing



#### Mooseheads silence Screaming Eagles

#### **Just not** good enough

Mayor calls out snow-removal staff after storm buries city (page 4)

#### **MacKay** lauds troops

Government celebrates success of the Libvan mission (page 8)

#### The season of spending

Will fears about economy affect your holiday purchases? {page 11}

### Black Friday, Canuck-style

Canadian chains competing with U.S. sales Stores in HRM hoping to cash in



Black Friday is casting a shadow over HRM.

It's the day after American Thanksgiving and the largest shopping day there, but store owners here are getting in on the deal and it's win-win for shoppers.

"It's been creeping in for quite a while and I think it's driven by the increasing presence of American chains like Walmart, Home Depot and Gap," said Gordon Fullerton, acting dean of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University.

It may be the biggest shopping day in the States, but in Halifax the biggest retail days are still usually the two weekends before Christmas, weather depending, Fullerton said.

Black Friday "is not so much when Canadian retailers make their money, but it's certainly when they have to make their gravy," he

Many stores throughout HRM will be offering up discounts this

#### Solid shopping start

- Valerie Payn said the Christmas shopping season already seems to be off to a good start as consumer confidence, driven by the winning of the shipbuilding contract, is high.
- "All indications are we're going to have a good season," she said.

weekend to kickstart shoppers on their Christmas purchases.

"If there's an opportunity for our local retailers to take advantage of the excitement and the talk all around sales and opportunities, then why not?" said Valerie Payn with the Halifax Chamber of Com-

But despite retailers' efforts, Black Friday buzz doesn't seem to be catching on with shoppers.

"I've heard about it in the United States, but never knew it was up here," said one shopper at Scotia Square on Thursday.

Others hadn't even heard about Black Friday sales.

**WITH FILES FROM HEATHER GILLIS** 

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### Kids not the only ones upset by snow-day bust

Several school boards in province closed on Wednesday, but to compare to Halifax is 'unfair': School board chair Doard meeting postponed to Nov. 30





A flurry of criticism is being tossed at the Halifax Regional School Board for their decision to keep schools open through Wednesday's snow storm.

Irvine Carvery, chair of the Halifax Regional School Board, said Supt. Carole Olsen made the decision

6 a.m., and at that time, forecasts suggested the snow would start at 1 p.m.

"At midday we were in the height of the storm and we didn't feel it would be safe to have the children out on the roads at that time," he said.

Hordes of parents called or emailed the school board on the issue, but Carvery said many of those calls were from parents supportive of the board's decision.

David Cameron. school-board member whose proposal to toughen the snow-day policy was shot down recently, said rural schools should have been closed Wednesday, but not city schools.

"The decision to keep

"In making that decision, we are fully



IRVINE CARVERY, CHAIR OF HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

all schools open caused some problems in rural areas," Cameron said. "Some of the buses took a long time to get home and some had difficulty getting through unplowed roads.

The scĥools stayed open, but the school board's meeting Wednesday night was cancelled because of the snow.

"This month's schoolboard meeting calls for the election of the chair and vice chair, and we have members who live as far Middle away as Musquodoboit and it was my decision to postpone it," Carvery said.

"I want all board members to be present for the

#### What say you, **Twitter?**



We asked via Twitter if the Halifax Regional School Board made the right

call in not cancelling school on Wednesday.

- @Melissa Mac: There is no way anyone can justify that decision being safe AT ALL!!! Everyone should have been sent home, off the roads, DUH!
- @Chelsey Lightfoot: I agree with their decision. A lot of parents work until 4/5 anyway, so it might have been safer for the kids to be at school
- @Paul Russell: If it was my decision, I would have closed the schools in the HRSB for Wed, and announced that Tues evening.
- @Calvin H.: They made the right call. It was a harsh day, but people had ample time to get ready
- @Quentin Boone: HRSB was selfish, they even cancelled their own meeting. Kids should have had the chance to go get snow tires for their bikes.
- @Jules: No! Suicide drive at 2pm. Too many accidents. Keep in mind how far HRSB stretches out, but the board x'd THEIR meeting. Wrong.
- @Rebecca Lewis: If they cancelled school and it didn't storm parents would be mad over having kids at home. You can't depend on the NS weather
- @Rémi Lefebvre: they were irresponsible and risked the safety of students, teachers and staff. They've closed for less. Bad decision!





have been having for some Scan code for story

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### Snow removal not up to par: Mayor

#### **○** 30cm of snow dumped on HRM



HRM slipped up on snow removal this week, said Mayor Peter Kelly on Thursday.

"I think we could be doing it better and I think the taxpayers think we can be doing it better," he said in an interview.

The municipality was heavily criticized by residents for slow or absent snow removal on Wednesday. Kelly said there were a number of issues that combined to make it an extra messy snow day.

First, the snow was expected to start at lunchtime but instead began at around 9 a.m. — a time when the roads were busy. But still, Kelly said the crews should have been ready.

"With contractors, some didn't show up or not on the right time-frame and we also had some salting congestion issues at the depot as well," he said.

"There were a few issues that brought the lackluster service to the forefront but we strive to do better."



"There were many issues that added to the situation and unfortunately we were not at our best and we can be doing better."

HRM staff said they had 90 per cent of trucks, and city crews and contractors operating with about 75 per cent of loaders and graders on the roads. "The heavy equipment isn't on retainer until Dec. 1 so we used all

spokeswoman Michaelyn Thompson.

MAYOR PETER KELLY

Kelly said the slow service wasn't a money issue, but a planning one.

we had access to," said HRM

"I think being the first snow of the season there are some growing and operational pains for sure. I think we'll learn from this situation and we'll do a better job next time."



#### Drivers block plows

Many drivers were not on their best behaviour during Wednesday's snow storm, police say. Police handed out 112 parking tickets for obstructing snow plows, removed 48 vehicles, and 66 collisions were reported. "I think the number (of tickets) could have been higher," said Const. Brian Palmeter, Halifax Regional Police spokesman."There were a number of vehicles you could see by driving around the city (on Thursday) that obviously hampered snow removal in some regard."

As plows continued to clear secondary streets on Thursday morning, police received a number of calls about parked vehicles blocking the way. The HRM parking ban is applicable overnight but provincial law restricts vehicles blocking plows anytime of the day.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

### Crown hopes to speed up spending scandal case

A new plea date has been set for a former Nova Scotia cabinet minister facing fraud charges in the province's legislature spending scandal.

Crown attorney Andrew Macdonald agreed in Nova Scotia Supreme Court Thursday to set over a plea date for former Conservative cabinet minister Richard Hurlburt until Feb. 23.

Hurlburt is charged with fraud over \$5,000, breach of trust by a public officer and uttering forged documents.

Macdonald said outside court that he's having discussions with Hurlburt's lawyer, Stan MacDonald, and he hopes the discussions will speed up the case.

Hurlburt is one of three former politicians and



one current member of the legislature charged following a police investigation into alleged spending abuses.

Former legislature member Dave Wilson pleaded guilty in September to charges of fraud, forging documents and breach of trust.

He will be sentenced on Jan. 25 in Sydney.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Other charges

Dartmouth North MLA Trevor Zinck and former Liberal MLA Russell MacKinnon are also facing charges in relation to the expense scandal and their cases are before the courts.

### Halifax man pleads guilty to manslaughter

A Halifax man charged with second-degree murder in the death of his roommate in February of 2010 has pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter.

Michael Rae Ells, 30,

made the agreed upon plea this week during his murder trial at Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax.

Ells was sentenced to 13 years plus two months in prison.

METRO

## Blunt to serenade Halifax Singer-songwriter James

Singer-songwriter James Blunt is performing at the Halifax Metro Centre on Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$63 and available through Ticket Atlantic.



#### Drive sober, safe all year

Emergency first responders from across Nova Scotia converged in Amherst on Thursday to kick off Operation Christmas, which encourages people to drive sober and drive safe, not only over the holidays, but all year.

"We can't do this alone.

We need support from the public and we're asking them to get on board with this campaign so everyone can have a safe holiday season with no tragic events on our highways," Amherst Deputy police Chief Ian Naylor said at a press conference. • METRO





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### Prolonged delay of first contract bill

A filibuster to delay passage of a contentious labour bill in Nova Scotia is being prolonged by the third-place Conservatives.

Both opposition parties are against proposed

changes in the Trade Union Act that would allow an arbitrator or the province's labour board to settle first collective agreements.

The seven-member Conservative caucus has used all of the time in the legislature this week to speak on the bill and Thursday introduced a procedural "hoist" motion. That is aimed at extending the debate on the legislation for at least an-



other day or two.

Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie says he wants to highlight the difference between his party and the government over what he calls a "bad bill at the wrong time."

Opposition Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil says some in his caucus will speak on the legislation.

Deputy premier Frank Corbett says the government at some point will move to ensure the bill passes in a timely manner. THE CANDIAN PRESS

# Ombudsman cites 26 allegations of wrongdoing

### ◆ Allegations represent typical number of complaints received each year from civil servants: Bishop

Whistleblowing civil servants in Nova Scotia filed 26 allegations of government wrongdoing with the province's ombudsman in the past year, including accusations of kickbacks, unsafe working conditions and abuse of authority.

But ombudsman Dwight Bishop said Thursday he wouldn't release any details about the allegations, citing the need for confidentiality in the Ombudsman Act. The allegations were disclosed to him under the province's Civil Service Disclosure of Wrongdoing regulations.

"The (allegations) can be anywhere from harassment to misappropriation of funds," he said shortly after he tabled his annual report in the legislature.

"They just run the gamut."

Bishop said none of the allegations involving kick-backs required a formal investigation by his office, but he declined to say whether any of the allegations were referred to police.

"I don't believe it would

be appropriate to discuss that," he said.

The report says two of the 26 allegations are being investigated by his office, but Bishop said he wouldn't talk about those complaints until next year.

until next year.

The other 24 complaints were either abandoned by the complainants, dismissed as inapplicable under the regulations or referred for further assessment by Bishop's office or another agency.

another agency.

Bishop said two of the three whistleblower investigations launched last year by his office concluded that government wrongdoing had occurred. Again, he declined to release any details, except to say that one case involved "respect in the workplace," while the other related to "compliance and enforcement."

Since the whistleblower regulations came into effect in 2004, the ombudsman has received 107 allegations of government wrongdoing, but only three have been substantiated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



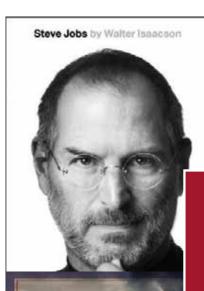


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MICHAEL

THE CAT'S TABLE





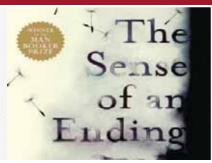


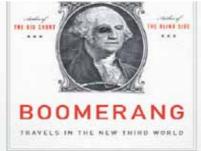
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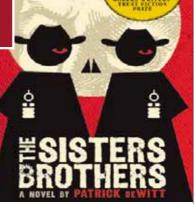












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### **Troops live for missions: Defence minister**

▶ MacKay celebrates "overwhelming success" of Libya campaign ▶ He says intervention in Syria a last resort



Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the crew of HMCS Charlottetown are "raring to go" on their next assignment to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Charlottetown will depart from Halifax in January for a year-long mission in the Mediterranean. The crew will be a part of NA-TO's Operation Active Endeavour, tracking, boarding and reporting on ships believed to be involved in international terrorism.

"(The crew is) glad to be home, glad to be with their families, but people in the forces want to go places, they want to do things, they want to serve their country," said MacKay from Ot-Thursday. opportunity to deploy on a mission is what all our personnel live for."

In Ottawa on Thursday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston paid tribute to the men and women who participated in the Libya mission. MacKay was at the event and said Thursday was an opportunity for the country to say "thank you" for that service.

Both the Vancouver and the Charlottetown were involved in the NATO inter-



"Stand on guard. This is the reality of the region and the world as we know it. It's a work in progress.

DEFENCE MINISTER PETER MACKAY

vention in Libya, with the Charlottetown returning to home port in August.

With an increasingly dire situation in Syria, where the government is brutally cracking down on demonstrators, MacKay acknowledged the advantage of having a ship in the re-

"As we've seen in Libya, these missions can arrive very quickly. Sometimes without notice," he said. "It does give us a little more opportunity to plan and prepare for what may come next. There are lessons obviously to be learned (from Libya), but not necessarily to be applied exactly in any future mission.



#### **Canadian Armed Forces top notch: PM**

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Iohnston paid warm tribute to the military Thursday for its work in the Libyan cam-

Johnston thanked the troops for their efforts. "On behalf of all Canadians, I thank you for your service in this mission," he said.

"Together, you embody

our commitment to international law, to the rights and freedoms we cherish in a democratic society, and to the personal values of duty, honour, and service."

He spoke in the ornate Senate chamber, which was packed with uniforms from all three services. MPs, cabinet ministers and diplomats also looked on.

Iohnston said the military had responded to the call of service. "In Libya, you served with distinction at all levels, bringing great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada."

The prime minister called it "a day of honour."

"We are celebrating a great military success: the success of Canada's partici-

pation in Operation Unified Protector and Operation Mobile, respectively the NA-TO mission to Libya and Canada's contribution to it," he said. He told the audience that "soldier for soldier, sailor for sailor, airman for airman, the Canadian Armed Forces are the best in the world."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Congratulations, Tammy, and keep up the great work!

Tammy Buckman





energy everywhere." Executive Assistant, Halifax



## Liberals press Paris on job targets

NDP promised creation of over 2,000 'secure jobs'

Opposition Liberals renewed their demand that Economic and Rural Development Minister Percy Paris provide concrete job targets for the province on Thursday.

But Paris says any target might be viewed as a ceiling — and that, once reached, may cause the government to take its foot off the gas.

It was the latest salvo in a weeklong battle between Paris and the two opposition parties. Liberal MLA Geoff MacLellan said without clearly defined targets, it's impossible for the opposition — and the public — to hold the government to account.

"In economic development, we don't have numbers, we have zero targets," "By creating targets, you actually put a ceiling on the number of jobs you're going to create."

PERCY PARIS

he said. "From our perspective, if there are no targets in a plan, there's no plan."

During question period Thursday, MacLellan noted the NDP had, in fact, set a target for job creation — in their 2009 election platform, the NDP committed to creating 2,200 jobs.

Outside the legislature, Paris said he didn't recall that particular promise. But he said his job as minister is to develop the best of all possible economic-development strategies — something he feels his department has accomplished. "I don't see that as a detour from the original plan. What I see is an improvement to the original plan," Paris said.

According to seasonally adjusted numbers from Statistics Canada, employment in Nova Scotia increased by 700 jobs, or 0.2 per cent, between October 2010 and October 2011. Full-time employment increased by 1.1 per cent, or 4,100 positions, over that same period. Part-time employment, however, declined by four per cent, or 3,400 positions.

Over that same period, employment in Canada grew by a more robust 1.4 per cent. • ALEX BOUTILIER

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## Broaden health-care coverage: Advocate

Provincial health ministers are meeting Friday in Halifax with Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq

Ottawa should expand health care programs by increasing taxes, medicare advocates said Thursday ahead of discussions in Halifax between federal, provincial and territorial health ministers on the next health care accord.

Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians said the federal government should commit to a 10-year health transfer plan with the provinces that would see a six per cent hike in funding annually. That would go beyond Prime Minister Stephen Harper's promise to implement such a funding increase up to 2016.

"We are very concerned that they have no intention of carrying it beyond that," "I'm looking forward to a conversation that will question in terms of, where do we want to innovate? How are we going to be more accountable to Canadians in the programs and the services that we deliver?" HEALTH MINISTER LEONA AGLIIKKAQ

Barlow told a news confer-

She said the Canada Health Act must also be enforced to stop private health care services from eroding the system.

Barlow called for health care coverage to be broadened to include pharmacare, continuing care and dental care. She said a national pharmacare program, as an example, would help contain overall health care costs. "The public part of health care has remained stable and the part that has not and is causing us these increases is the part that has not been included in the public system," said Barlow.

Elisabeth Ballermann of the Canadian Health Professionals Secretariat, a group of health unions, said health care can be extended by reversing cuts to some personal and corporate taxes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Services overlap, nurses union says

The president of the Nova Scotia Nurses Union says the province is paying for the same nursing service twice.

Janet Hazelton said that the Victoria Order of Nurses, a not-for-profit homecare nursing service operating in the province, serves a similar function as the province's 8-1-1 initiative, which provides on-call nursing assistance.

"In all likelihood, the calls going in to 8-1-1 may already be patients of the VON system who already provide an on-call system that the province is paying for," Hazelton said on Thursday. "It doesn't make sense to us. It's not a good use of health care dollars.'

Hazelton said she doesn't have a problem with the concept of 8-1-1
— where people can call up a nurse to deter-

37

The 37 nurses who man the phone lines work from home, while three coordinators work out of a call centre.

mine whether or not they should go to the hospital.

"We're opposed to the fact that we're paying twice for the same service," she said.

The 8-1-1 line received calls from over 63,000 patients from April to September of this year. Of those, over 53,000 patients were dealt with over the phone, while approximately 10,500 were sent to the emergency

ALEX BOUTILIER

## NewPage wants more protection

A Nova Scotia paper mill that shut down in September due to fiscal problems is seeking another extension of protection from its creditors.

NewPage Port Hawkesbury filed a notice of motion today with the province's Supreme Court asking for its creditor protection to be pushed to Jan. 20.

The company's protection is set to expire Dec. 9.

It argues it has made progress on a sale of assets and that an extension would give it a reasonable opportunity to conclude that process.

About 1,000 people were left without work when the Point Tupper, N.S., operation closed, and since then a monitor has whittled a list of potential buyers to four.

The motion will be heard Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Teen's fitness for trial yet to be determined

A Springhill teen charged with murder in the death of his mother will be back in court next month to determine whether his is fit to stand trial.

Zachary Quinn Brake made a brief appearance before Judge Paul Scovil in Amherst provincial court on Thursday, but was ordered to return to the East Coast Psychiatric Hospital in Dartmouth after it was learned he hadn't been tested to determine whether he is criminally responsible.

Brake, 18, turned himself into Springhill police early in the morning of Oct. 26. Police went to the Mechanic Street home and found the body of his mother, 37-year-old Tracey Ann Rudderham.

Police have yet to confirm how Rudderham

AMHERST DAILY NEWS



### Are we ready to spend?

• We'll be buying, but most not planning to go overboard these holidays: Poll

### BY THE NUMBERS

RICK EMBERLEY

HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA



It may be a slim goose this holiday season. The economic news these

days seems to be having an impact on Christmas buying behaviours. Sixtytwo per cent of HRM residents surveyed feel the economy is only fair or poor and just two per cent think it is excellent.

Will that view of things mean there will be less in the Christmas stocking?

Well, 45 per cent of those surveyed say they

#### Polling

 A total of 478 HRM residents were surveyed, with a margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.8 per cent.

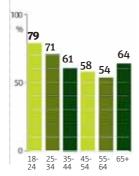
are hesitant to spend money in today's economy. But despite this, 62 per cent say they are comfortable making a major purchase such as a car or large household appli-

It is apparent that some folks are cutting back or managing their budgets more strictly.

Fifty-nine per cent say that paying off debt is their No. 1 priority after the necessities are looked after, with almost 40 per cent of that group confident they can do so in the coming year.

This may be explained

I am confident about making a major purchase in today's economy (% agreeing by age group):



by the fact that only eight per cent of residents expect the economy to be worse next year.

The trepidation remains for the vast majority of us, but most feel the holidays are a special

time. We will spend, but only 10 per cent expect to spend more this year than last. For the majority, more than 70 per cent, budgets are being held in check.

Our general concerns over the state of the economy will still hold sway on our spending habits for some time to come, with 53 per cent of respondents saying they remain worried about the impact of the economy on themselves.

Rick Emberley is senior counsel with the polling firm MQO Research. He has conducted publicopinion research in the region for over 25 years.



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HOUSE PRICES RISE

## Housing market stable: Realtors

The housing market remains healthy, with prices, listings and sold homes up modestly from August through October compared to the same period last year, the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors said Thursday.

The increases, it said, suggest the housing market has a healthy supply and demand.

"The term here is a buyer's market or a seller's market or balanced," said Wayne MacIntosh, president-elect of the realtors group. "I would say overall in most areas that we have a balanced market."

He also said the housing market in Nova Scotia is more insulated from national and global

▶ The number of

houses sold in HRM

in the third quarter

of 2011, realtors say

rose by eight per cent

housing fluctuations than other markets. "We tend to be a little more stable here."

Even though the market is healthy, MacIntosh added that those in the market for an investment property should buy one now.

The average cost of a residential property in Nova Scotia has risen 1.7 per cent. That brings the average price up to \$188,000.

That number is much higher in the Halifax-Dartmouth region, where the average sale price of a home is about \$243,000.

The average prices count for all types of homes sold, and what one gets for the money depends on where one buys.

buys.
"For 240,000, you'd have a hard time getting anything especially in the south and west end of the peninsula," he said. "But in areas of Dartmouth you could get a substantial house for a quarter of a million."

HEATHER GILLIS



## St. Mary's students on a mission to Mars

• University course pits engineering students against each other in a simulated 'space race' to build robot that could traverse Mars



HEATHER GILLIS

HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Saint Mary's University engineering students were on a mission to colonize Mars for marks on Thursday.

Second-year students enrolled in a design course had to plan, build and operate robots that could in theory manoeuvre the red planet.

"The idea is the robots have to assemble a Mars colony on a simulated Mars terrain," said engineering lab technician Ed Barchard while grading the robot competition.

"Of course there are no weather patterns and the gravity isn't the same, but it's as accurate as we can make it."

To build their robots, the students had \$20 and a kit containing eight motors, two skycams, nuts and bolts, wheels, metal parts and the brains of the operation.

To make things harder, the students were required to operate the robots from TV screens in the back of the classroom — or what



10 The robots had 10 minutes to move a model biodome, water tower, communications tower and a solar array.

the students call mission control centre — to simulate what it would be like to colonize Mars.

The course teaches students not only how to engineer robots, but also how to work together.

The class was divided into eight groups, each with a designated team leader.

It was an intensive 11 weeks during which the students learned handson skills, said Dr. Vlodek

Tarnawski.

But the stakes are high in this competition, and nearly all of the marks for the course depend on this project.

"If you fail one thing, anything, you automatically get a D. If you fail two things, then you get an F," Barchard said





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EGYPT STALEMATE

#### Generals refusing to budge

Egypt's military rulers have rejected protesters' demands for them to step down immediately.

They said Thursday they will start the first round of parliamentary elections on time next week despite serious unrest in Cairo and other cities.

The ruling military council insisted it is not the same as the old regime it replaced.

But the generals appear to be on much the same path that doomed Hosni Mubarak.

Protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square say they will not leave the iconic plaza until the generals step down in favour of a civilian presidential council.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.



#### Man hit by vehicle after stopping to help deer

A man suffered life-threatening injuries after stopping to help when a deer was killed on a rural

Police say the man was the struck by a pickup on Wallace Point Road, south of Peterborough, Ont., on Wednesday night. He was taken to St.

Michael's Hospital in Toronto

Police say it happened after another pickup struck and killed the deer.

No names have been released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### hits cars

Downtown Montreal had its own 13-storey waterfall for a brief moment Thursday morning.

cascading liquid concrete.

The concrete was being poured onto the site of the Université de Montréal's new super-hospital when, according to witnesses, a mould snapped and the wet concrete plunged onto passing vehicles.

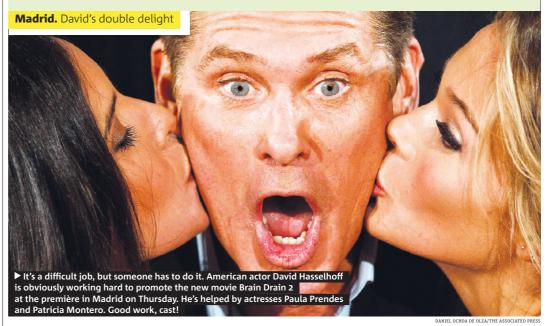
damaged and two others were slightly damaged. Nobody was hurt.

### Concrete cascade

A waterfall made of

Two cars were seriously

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Getting the job done, Hollywood-style

### Survivor of massacre pleads for gun registry

My heart is heavy, she tells Commons committee

The Conservative government is ignoring evidence and common sense in dismantling the long-gun registry, says a survivor of the 1989 Montreal massacre.

Nathalie Provost, an engineer who was shot at the Ecole Polytechnique, told the Commons public safety committee Thursday she's watching with a "heavy heart" as the Tories



"Long guns are dangerous. And this I know."

NATHALIE PROVOST, MONTREAL MASSACRE SURVIVOR

scrap the registry.

Provost said: "In 11 days, it will be the 22nd anniversary of the Polytechnique massacre, in which I was injured ..

"So it is with a heavy heart that I am witnessing the legislative process that is leading to the dismantling of one of the few positive outcomes of this tragedy: the law that helps save hundreds and hundreds of lives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### The Tory plan

The legislation would end registration of common rifles and shotguns and permanently delete more than seven million files. The Tories argue the registration of long guns is wasteful and unnecessary. But they support the licensing of gun owners and registration of prohibited and restricted



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### Russian fired for **Obama TV gaffe**

Award-winning newsreader caught on camera giving U.S. president the finger D Blames peers for mistake

We're sure there are plenty of ways to get fired when you're working in Russian media, but we wouldn't have speculated that flipping the bird at a sitting U.S. president would do the trick.

But then along came Tatyana Limanova, an award-winning (former) newscaster for Russia's REN TV, a privately owned channel, who offered the rude salute to Barack Obama during a live broadcast that aired to 120-million people earlier this month.

After the video went viral following a report in a the London Daily Telegraph, the station announced that Limanova



had been fired.

Network sources told the Telegraph that Limanova thought she was off-camera and just doing voiceover work when she offered the one-finger salute to studio technicians who were teasing her. metro



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#### Cops seek sex assault suspect

A man last seen wearing a white dress with pink flowers is wanted by North Vancouver RCMP.

Investigators say the Caucasian male, approxi-

mately 30 years old, is suspected of a sexual assault that took place in the Lonsdale area.

A female victim told police that she was approached by cross-dressing suspect around 2 a.m.

He told her his grandmother had just died and tried to hug the woman.

When she pulled away, suspect allegedly grabbed her and forced a kiss on her cheek.

Police describe the suspect as a 5'9" male with light brown hair and wearing brown leather boots and had a coat over his dress.

MATT KIELTYKA METRO IN VANCOUVER



### Web to get deeper, more interactive

One Millionth Tower called tip of iceberg in a big creative explosion

Today's World Wide Web is Flat Stanley, while its soonto-arrive successor is more like Avatar in Imax 3-D.

Thanks to pioneering work being done in Toronto, our daily online experiences are on the verge of becoming a lot deeper and more interactive.

The new web is not a flat surface to surf over, but an immersive place, like a game, where people will navigate through a rich mix of video, photos, text and live data.

Three weeks ago, the NFB released a taste of the riches to come, in the world's first immersive

#### Open code

The fifth generation of hypertext markup language (HTML5) allows software developers to embed video and live data (from the Weather Network, to Facebook and Twitter) without resorting to expensive and timeconsuming plug-ins.

documentary, One Millionth Tower.

"It's a new box, new playground and a new language," says Flahive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



#### 50 million reasons to smile

Don, 53, and Linda, 59, of Oshawa, Ont., say they will now retire from work as restaurant cooks, buy a "comfy" home and help their two grown children.

#### Shock ads put baby in bed with meat cleaver

The poster images are meant to shock: a diapered, cherubic baby sleeping on his stomach in an adult bed, a butcher knife next to him. In another, a rosyskinned infant lightly fingers the handle of a cleaver.

"Your baby sleeping with you can be just as danger-ous," reads the doom-saying tagline.

The posters were unveiled in early November by Milwaukee's health department as part of a campaign to lower the city's infant mortality rate — currently 10.4 deaths for every 1,000 live births.

The campaign tackles bed-sharing, in which ba-bies share a bed with their parents, suggesting that a child can become smoth-But parents and breastfeeding advocates say the sensationalized ad campaign overstates the risks.

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## B.C. bank key to \$200K mystery?

• D.B. Cooper parachuted out of airliner with the cash

Amateur sleuth Galen Cook believes the answer to America's only unsolved hijacking lies in a Vancouver bank vault.

That's where the mysterious D.B. Cooper stashed \$200,000 in extorted cash after parachuting out of a 727 jet 40 years ago Thursday, Cook says.

And the outlaw's son agrees with him.

Greg Gossett said he's "totally certain" his father, military veteran William Gossett, was D.B. Cooper.

Greg Gossett said his father once pulled an FBI sketch of D.B. Cooper from a locked file drawer and asked if Greg recognized the man.

Gossett said he told his



father it looked like him. And he said his father — who died in 2003 — acknowledged he was D.B. Cooper.

Cook, an Alaskan lawyer, is convinced William Gossett hid his money in a safety deposit box in a bank in Vancouver's Chinatown.

And Cook has spent years trying to track down the keys.

"This is one of the most intriguing unsolved crimes ever," Cook said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



#### The web slinger wows 'em

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade made its annual appearance through the streets of New York on Thursday — for the 85th year. It featured more than 40 balloon creations, 27 floats, 800 clowns and 1,600 cheerleaders.

#### Guard threatens tot, gets turfed

A grocery store security guard in Everett, Wash., has been fired after telling the father of a four-yearold girl she'd face criminal charges for grabbing a dried fruit package and eating some fruit. Safeway said the company was appalled by the guard's actions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







### Scandinavia's winter woes

- Northern countries dealing with unusually warm start to winter
   In Sweden, the temperature for November measured 7 C above average
- For some reason, Scandinavia is not its frigid self, with unusually warm weather delaying the onset of winter in northern latitudes normally decked in

The lack of snow has been bad news for winter sports — World Cup ski races have been dropped, or held on artificial snow, and mountain ski resorts are unable to open. There are even reports of bird song and blooming gardens in some places typically entering the winter freeze at this time of year. "Some flowers, like roses, have actually begun to blossom for a second time," said Mats Rosenberg, a biologist in Orebro, south-central Sweden. Weather experts say this fall is on track to become one of the warmest on record. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Snow storm wallops Newfoundland

Steele 🖓

It was a savage day, as some Newfoundlanders would say, with record snowfalls that delayed mail, cancelled classes and even took public transit buses off the road.

The southeastern Avalon Peninsula was hit with almost 30 centimetres of snow measured by early Thursday afternoon at the St. John's International

Airport.

"This one was pretty severe because it shut down the biggest city in the province," said Environment Canada meteorologist Herb Thoms. "That doesn't happen often — especially when they're taking the transit buses off the road. That's pretty significant."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



### Montreal calls time on Occupy

The city of Montreal says its tolerance of activists occupying a square in the downtown financial district has ended.

Police are continuing to hand out notices today telling protesters to immediately remove their tents

One activist says a police officer first handed her a stackful of notices

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on Wednesday evening and asked her to distribute them.

The notices warn that if the installations aren't taken down, the city will do it for them.

Some campers are now removing valuables from their tents in case they are forcibly removed.

A spokesman for the city says Montreal wants the campers to leave on a voluntary basis but that necessary measures will be taken, if required, to achieve that goal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



#### **News in brief**

#### Arizona collects cash for fence

PHOENIX. The U.S. state of Arizona is taking on immigration once again, with lawmakers collecting donations from the public to put a fence along every inch of the state's border with Mexico. The idea came from state Senator Steve Smith, a Republican who says people from across the nation have donated about \$255,000 to the project.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Thanksgiving farewell in Iraq

COS ECHO, IRAQ. American troops marked their last Thanksgiving in Iraq Thursday with turkey, stuffing and a rocket-fire alarm. Fewer than 20,000 American troops remain in Iraq at eight bases across the country. Many of the bases no longer have civilian contractors making meals for them, so the troops have been eating prepackaged meals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Frenchmen abducted in Mali

BAMAKO, MALI. Gunmen ambushed a hotel and abducted two French citizens early Thursday, the first such attack in the area located far from the bases of al-Qaidalinked militants in the country's north. Maoulou Daou, a hotel owner in the town of Hombori where the Frenchmen were taken, said the two men were abducted from another hotel, after the gunmen tied up the manager, guard and cook and went in search of the foreigners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Bodies dumped near Pan Am Games site

26 bodies discovered in the heart of Mexico's picturesque Guadalajara
 Drug cartels leave threatening notes with bodies of victims to sow fear

The bound and gagged bodies of 26 men were found dumped before dawn Thursday in the heart of the picturesque city of Guadalajara, a sign that full-scale war between drug cartels may have come to the metropolis that hosted last month's Pan American Games..

Law-enforcement officials said the men were found, shot executionstyle, in two vans and a pickup truck abandoned near the Millennium Arches, one of the most recognizable landmarks in Mexico's second-largest city.

Best known as the home

of mariachi music and tequila, Guadalajara also sits on the main highway running through western Mexico from the methamphetamine-producing state of Michoacan north toward the Pacific Coast state of Sinaloa.

In recent months, security officials and analysts have worried that the city could become a target for the Zetas drug cartel, which has been using paramilitary-style tactics and headline-grabbing atrocities in a national push to grab territory from older organized crime groups.

"These acts of barbarism show how the war between cartels, and crime, is getting more brutal," Guadalajara's mayor, Jorge Aristoteles Sandoval, told reporters.

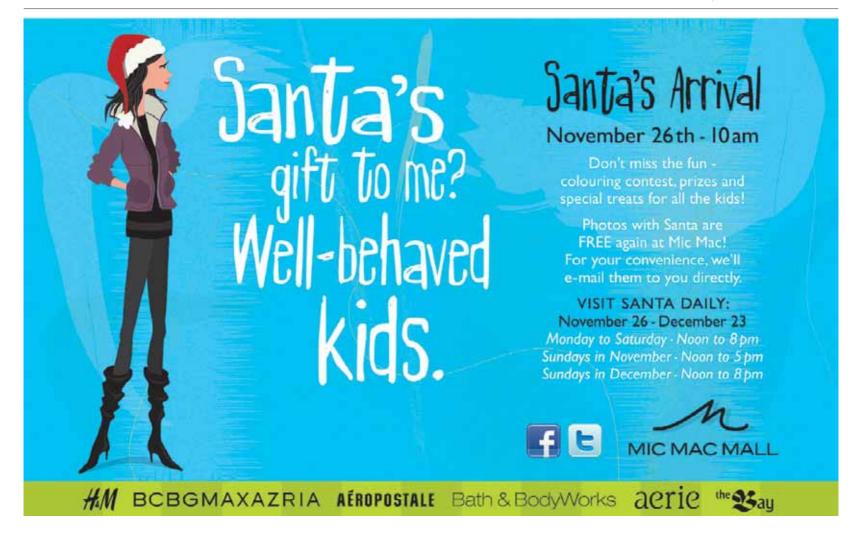
A message was found with the bodies in one of the vehicles, said Luis Carlos Najera, public-security secretary for the state of Jalisco.

"It's sad to see what's going on," taxi driver Jesus Amado said. "We used to be looking at the problem from afar. Now we're not, we've got it right here."

The bodies were found about 1.6 km from the Expo Guadalajara events centre, the site of the Pan Am Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### **Street battles**

- or Crime in this colonial city of some 1.5 million people was historically dominated by the powerful Sinaloa cartel, but the group's tight grip was shattered by the death of its regional commander, Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel, in a shootout with federal police in July 2010.
- Guadalajara's murder rate then soared as factions of the cartel known as the New Generation and the Resistance battled to control Coronel's territory and assets. Street battles have left hundreds dead.





### Mob boss found dead near river

The body of a powerful Mafia boss who once headed New York's notorious Bonnano crime family was reportedly found by a river near Montreal this morning.

Reports identified the body as Salvatore Montagna, although police wouldn't immediately confirm or deny the identity.

firm or deny the identity.

Nicknamed "Sal The
Iron Worker." he owned
and operated a successful
steel business in the U.S.

The FBI once called him the acting boss of the Bonanno crime family — prompting one of New York's tabloids to dub him the "Bambino Boss" because of his rise to power

in his mid-30s.

His death is the latest in a series of Mafia-related killings and disappearances over the last two years. Montagna was considered a contender to take over the decimated Rizzuto family.

A provincial police spokesman said Thursday that a private citizen called just after 10 a.m., having spotted a body along the shores of the L'Assomption River.

The same person also reported to local police that he heard gunshots, but Sgt. Benoit Richard said he couldn't confirm just how the victim died.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### **Crime family**

 The Bonanno crime family is one of the five largest Mafia families in New York
 one of the notorious criminal gangs that formed the original Commission, along with Al Capone and Lucky Luciano. The Bonannos also had close ties to the Montreal Mafia.





### Cast of celebs tells U.K. inquiry of press intrusion

### • Author J.K. Rowling and actress Sienna Miller are the latest to appear before media ethics inquiry

Writer J.K. Rowling and actress Sienna Miller gave a London courtroom a vivid picture on Thursday of the anxiety, anger and fear produced by living in the glare of Britain's tabloid

(\$97.03 US)

media, describing how press intrusion made them feel like prisoners in their own homes.

The creator of boy wizard Harry Potter told Britain's media ethics inquiry that having journalists camped on her doorstep was "like being under siege and like being a hostage." Miller said years of car chases, midnight pursuits and intimate revelations had left her feeling violated, paranoid and anxious.

"The attitude seems to be absolutely cavalier," Rowling said. "You're famous, you're asking for it"

The pair were among a diverse cast of witnesses — Hollywood star Hugh Grant, a former soccer player, a former aide to supermodel Elle Macpherson and the parents of missing

and murdered children — who have described how becoming the focus of Britain's tabloid press wreaked havoc on their lives.

Rowling said she was completely unprepared for the media attention she began to receive when her first book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, became a sensation. The seven Potter books propelled Rowling from struggling single mother to one of Britain's richest people.

"When you become well-known ... no one gives you a guidebook," she said.

Prime Minister David Cameron set up the inquiry amid a still-unfolding scandal over illegal eavesdropping by the News of the World tabloid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

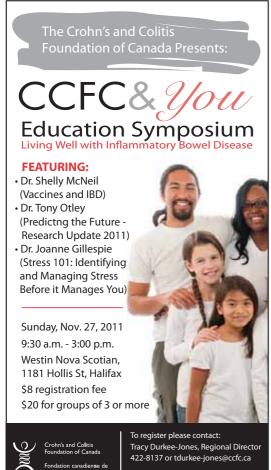


### Formula One boss speaks out at inquiry

Former Formula One boss Max Mosley, who has campaigned for a privacy law since his interest in sadomasochistic sex was exposed in the News of the World, broadened the focus in testimony Thursday, discussing the difficulty of squashing malicious stories in the Internet age.

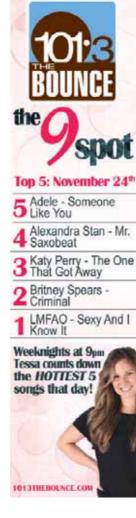
Mosley successfully sued

the News of the World over a 2008 story headlined "Formula One boss has sick Nazi orgy with five hookers." Mosley has acknowledged the orgy, but argued that the story was an "outrageous" invasion of privacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## Germany deflects calls for more bank power

● Many think the European Central Bank is the only institution capable of calming frayed market nerves

Germany fended off calls for the European Central Bank to play a bigger role in solving Europe's debt crisis but won the backing of France and Italy to unite the troubled 17-nation eurozone more closely.

Europe's biggest economy and the main financier of the eurozone's three bailouts has argued against allowing the ECB to use its firepower to ease a debt crisis that's shown alarming signs recently of spreading.

Instead of using the ECB's cash-printing power, the eurozone's richest countries decided to use political tools to dig their way out of the crisis: Germany and France agreed Thursday to push for changes to EU treaties to bring the eurozone's economic policies



more in line with each other.

"In the treaty changes, we are dealing with the question of a fiscal union, a deeper political co-operation. ... There will be proposals on this, but they

have nothing to do with the ECB," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Thursday in France, after meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Italy's new Prime Minister Mario Montil THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 25-27, 2011

# THE KID IS BACK & DOGS CAN WALK IN THE PARK

### THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON METRO Sidney Crosby. It was a day some thought might never come. Canada's Sid the Kid, out since early January with post-concussion syndrome,



concussion syndrome, returned to the ice Monday night for his Penguins at home — with even CBC choosing to do a special broadcast. He was simply amazing, scoring two goals and two assists in a 5-0 storybook win over the Islanders. Yes, the best player in the world isn't just back — he's better

than ever.

Feds and social media. Ottawa has rolled out formal guidelines for how their departments should use Twitter and Facebook, recognizing that "Web 2.0 is increasingly becoming a primary channel for sending, receiving and generating information." The guidelines also say public servants should be aware of the risks of operating in social media circles. In other words, look for tweets of political correctness.

look for tweets of political correctness.

Occupy camps. Occupy protest camps in Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto were dismantled this week after eviction notices went out. The message(s) had been delivered, and the time had come for them to come down. The Toronto camp at St. James Park had taken on a life of its own: As Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti said, "We have Robin Hoods and makeshift Jesuses walking around, pretending that the park is theirs." Now it'll be Dog Park again.

Password. Hackers love those who choose "password" as their online password. And there are lots of you, according to Internet security firm SplashData, which released the top password name rankings based on millions of stolen passwords. The Top 5: 1. password 2. 123456 3. 12345678 4. qwerty 5. abc123. And you'd better be more creative than going with "monkey," you monkeys. That's No. 6 on the list.

with "monkey." you monkeys. That's No. 6 on the list.

Fox News. According to a new study, there is

"something about watching Fox News that leads people to do worse on (news) questions than those who don't watch any news at all." The most informed respondents: People who listen to NPR, those who watch Sunday morning news programs and — best of all — viewers of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

ABA. With the NBA season a virtual wipeout due

ABA. With the NBA season a virtual wipeout due to the lockout, maybe the American Basketball Association will catch on. The calibre of play may not be up to NBA standards, but teams like the Los Angeles SLAM and Gulf Coast Flash could become household names if national TV chooses to broadcast some games. The legendary Dr. J got his start in the original ABA. There could be another legend waiting in the wings.

There could be another legend waiting in the wings.

Watch your gadgets. A new poll by polling/social media company Poll Position found that more than 60 per cent of us spend between one to six hours a day watching electronic devices like TV, computer screen, e-reader, PDA or cellphone. So what the heck is the other 40 per cent doing?

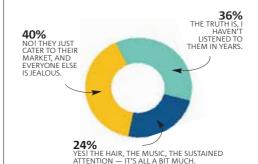
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (Aneilmorton).

### Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are Nickelback critics justified?



#### Local tweets



► @Chase-Sabourin: Dear Parking Enforcement.

Any respect I had is lost after seeing you ticket others while illegally parked yourself. #Hypocrite #Halifax @jdickie: Pretty pumped

- @jdickie: Pretty pumped about the lack of a parking ticket last night. Today should give snow removers ample time to clear way for tonight! #halifax
- @YHZNautiGirl: The city of #Halifax should be ashamed of itself for it's terrible response to a predictable snow storm. Ever hear of a snowplow, Mr. Kelly?
- @dispositif: HRSB gets criticized when it lets kids out during storms or when it keeps them during storms. No winning. #Halifax #nspoli
- ▶ @CaseybelleTwtr:
  #halifax people! Un-snow
  your car roofs after a
  #snowstorm in the
  #maritimes because cops
  are giving out fines! it's
  dangerous! RT please
- ▶ @HilaryChoi: Omg... there's a woman #breastfeeding in front of my store. They should have a room in the mall for that... #MicMacMall #Halifax



#### Lemurs enjoy Thanksgiving

CALIFORNIA. On this day, furry critters are thankful—even if they put their tails in their plates. Some ring-tailed lemurs had a feast at the Thanksgiving dinner at San Francisco Zoo. Fifteen grey lemurs tucked into a feast of green beans, fruit, sweet potatoes and a turkey made out of monkey chow.

#### Polite males or bossy females?

BEHAVIOUR. The core group consists of females and their young. When the troop moves between feeding sites, this group settles into the best feeding spot and eats first. The males wait for them to finish or feed in a less desired tree nearby. It's women and children first, too, for often hard-to-find water that gathers in trees. • MWN

50%

of the lemur diet consists of fruit from the tamarind tree, consumed mostly during the dry winter season. Lemurs have been observed eating decayed wood, earth, spider webs, insect cocoons, spiders, caterpillars, small birds and chameleons.

#### .....

Treasured lemur treats: grapes, raisins and almonds.

Lemur facts

- ▶ 1/3 of the at least 70 lemur species are endangered.
- Endemic to Madagsacar. Nowhere else are they found in the wild.



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#### Synopsis

Based on two books by Colin Clark, The Prince, The Showgirl and Me and My Week with Marilyn, the movie's main character isn't Monroe, but Clark (Eddie Redmayne), the third assistant director on The Prince and the Showgirl starring Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) and Monroe. It was the summer of 1956 and Clark was a 23-vear-old who, like the rest of the planet, was smitten with Monroe. The two form a bond, and for a few days it looks like his love for her might actually be reciprocated.

Ratings:
Richard: @@@¹½
Mark: @@@

**Reel Guys** 



## 'Marilyn' charms

#### • My Week With Marilyn gives its actors lots of chances to showcase their chops

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Richard: Mark, almost 50 years after her death, Marilyn Monroe is still one of the best-known actresses in the world and yet Michelle Williams manages to bring something new to someone we thought we knew so well. Even though I liked this movie and thought that Monroe's off-screen life, as dramatic as anything she ever did on screen, is tenderly portrayed, the story isn't as interesting as the performance. What did vou think?

Mark: This movie is definitely NOT the Marilyn Monroe biopic. It's a small, charming film about the havoc the sexiest woman in the world can have on those around her. The movie's fabulous first half sets up the characters, milieu, and conflicts, but then doesn't have anywhere to go. So the story is weak, as you say, but its pleasures are in the fine details, including Michelle Williams' amazing portrayal of Ms. Monroe, and the wonderful sense of time and place on a film set circa 1956. And I've never seen Kenneth Branagh better!

RC: Branagh is very good, but when placed against Williams's Monroe his work seems to lack the soul she brings to every frame of film. He does have many of the film's best lines, however. His delivery of lines like, "Trying

to teach Marilyn to act is like teaching Urdu to a badger," is letter perfect and adds much to the movie but I think the Oscar nomination here will go to Williams.

MB: The movie belongs to her, no question. But there are so many finely etched smaller parts that flesh out the movie. Judi Dench as the regal Dame Sybil Thorndike and Zoe Wanamaker as prickly acting coach Paula Strasberg are both exceptional. But why was the Arthur Miller part so underwritten? And were you impressed by Eddie Redmayne as the boy who becomes a man?

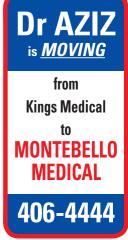
**RC:** His story should have been titled The Week I Al-

most Made It with Marilyn. It might have spiced up his role a bit. He's good, I think, but when Williams and Branagh are on screen he disappears. He's a main character but unfortunately for him he's saddled with a quiet role in a movie filled with bravura performances.

MB: I thought the movie was quite funny in places, by the way; the clash of acting styles between the Brits and the Yanks made for good fun, as did Branagh's growing exasperation with his star. But the abrupt turnaround at the end of the movie where he gushes over Marilyn's "natural, intuitive talent" seemed forced and false









### Celebrities lace 'em up

• Goon comes to theatres next year, so we look at Hollywood's hockey love

Tickets on sale today at noon!



Olympians in sequins are

celebs making saucer passes and slamming each other into the boards. on ice, images of former

But many Hollywood types bitten by the hockey

conjured well ahead of bug need a fix every now and then. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer, best known for blockbuster films like Top Gun and Armageddon, has been organizing low-

"SUBTLE. INTELLIGENT.

key weekly pickup hockey games catering to celebrities craving ice time for over a decade. The game has since snagged many notables in its wide net.



Growing up in Burnaby, B.C., the jazzy crooner worshipped the Vancouver Canucks. If his hockey skills were on par with his pipes he would've traded in all the Grammy awards for a shot at hockey glory in a heartbeat. While on tour in the U.K. last year in between gigs, Bublé suited up and took a



practice with the EIL's Nottingham Panthers. "Take your best shots at me and keep the elbows high," he goaded the team before taking to the ice.



#### Steve Carell

Long before presiding over the paper pushers at

Dunder Mifflin as alter ego Michael Scott. Carell played goalie on his high school hockey team in Concord, Mass. On a sea-

son 2 episode of The Office, Carell takes the gang out ice-skating to celebrate his birthday and shows up in full hockey gear, stick and all. "I thought about playing in the NHL but you're on the road so much you have no time to spend with your wife and kids...and I really want a wife and kids," quipped, explaining the get-up.

#### **Taylor Kitsch**

Wonder why Tim Riggins was so good at laying people out on Friday Night Lights? Growing up in Kelowna B.C., Kitch (best known for his role as the buff, constantly brooding Dillon Panthers fullback on Friday Night Lights) played Junior A hockey in the BCHL for the Lan-While gley Hornets.



filming FNL he played pickup hockey in Austin, Texas with other expat puck heads and he's also participated in one of Luc Robitaille's Celebrity Shoot Outs.



#### Justin Bieber

The Biebs was going top shelf on

goalies and rocking opponents against the boards long before he topped the pop charts as a Billboard #1 fixture. Along with skateboarding and chess, hockey is one of Stratford,

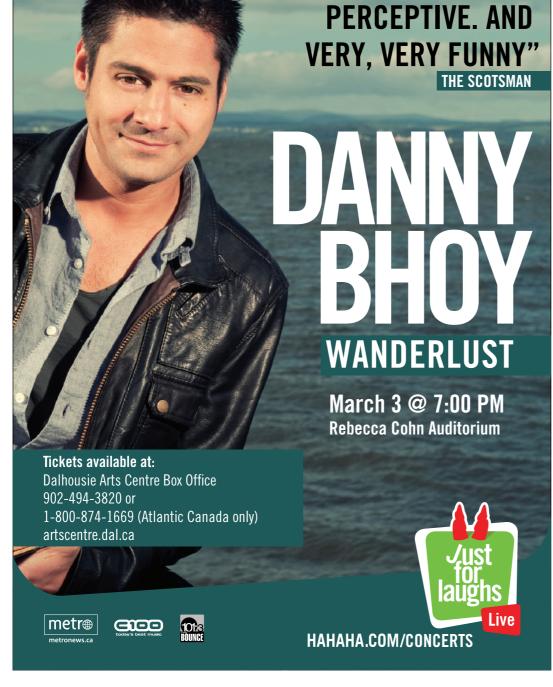
Ont's most famous son's way of unwinding when he's not performing in arenas or being chased like a Beatle. When he moved to Atlanta to start recording and before his touring schedule got too hectic, Bieber played the 2008-2009 season with the Atlanta Knights hockey team wearing #18 and has been known to schedule a little skate around on days off from the singing grind.

#### **Dierks Bentley**

Despite toting his hockey gear wherever he goes, this country star has gotten more hurt performing than skating around on the ice. He once tore his ACL jumping off a stage riser. Playing hockey he's never suffered anything worse than a hard puck to the shin. He's said that for him



concerts are like hockey games in that when he goes out on stage he tapes his boots in the same fashion that he laces his skates - using



### We give thanks for these films

• With Thanksgiving weekend underway down south, we thought we'd show our gratitude for these great flicks

It's Thanksgiving weekend in the U.S., with our southern neighbours reflecting on the people and things for which they're grateful. Since we love movies, we thought it would be a good time to choose five for which we're thankful. These are the cinematic equivalent of comfort food; ones that can be watched over and over again, and always rely on making you laugh, lift you up or provide an escape. (The inclusion of anything by John Hughes goes without saying.) Ask us next week and this list might be different. But for this weekend, dig in.



#### Rushmore (1998)

This remains Wes Anderson's best movie. Young Jason Schwartzman, making his film debut, stars as Max Fischer, who's involved in everything at the exclusive Rushmore Academy. A restrained Bill Murray is hilarious as the depressed father of a couple of Max's classmates, with whom Max forms an unlikely friendship — until they fall for the affections of the first-grade teacher.



#### The Sound of Music (1965)

Yes, it's a huge movie and a classic, winner of five Academy Awards. But there's something so personal about it; we all grew up watching it — it's one of those movies that is on television every year around the holidays. Why shouldn't Julie Andrews be able to come up with just the perfect, inspiring tune on the spot, or make play clothes out of drapes for all seven Von Trapp children, and still find time to make goo-goo eyes at the captain?



#### This is Spinal Tap (1984)

Pretty much the greatmockumentary ever, the one that launched Christopher Guest's entire oeuvre. many great, quotable lines. So many ridiculous songs in this fake behind-thescenes look at a spectacularly awful and over-the-top British rock band. So many small, deadpan ad-libs that produce huge laughs.



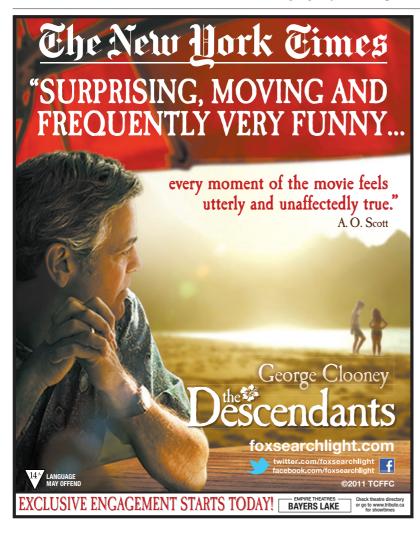
#### The Big Lebowski (1998)

Admittedly, this is not the Coen brothers' best film, but the cult of Lebowski is just too powerful. There's something hypnotic about it: the way The Dude navigates the increasingly surreal adventure in which he's found himself. Bowling, Vietnam, white Russians, porn, a toe with green nail polish on it and a crucial rug all collide in weird and wonderful ways. No matter what Jeff Bridges accomplishes, he will always be The Dude.



#### Sleeping Beauty (1959)

This Disney animated film is an uncharacteristically chickish choice on our part, given its themes of a woman in peril who needs a man to rescue her. So no, it's not terribly forwardthinking. But when you were little didn't it all seem so romantic? Aurora was so gorgeous and graceful, tall and blond, the epitome of feminine beauty back then. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**Movies** 

See it twice mamma | See it now mamma

| Worth watching | Sawn | Yawn | Don't bother |



#### **The Descendants**

Genre: Comedy/Drama
Director: Alexander Payne
Stars: George Clooney, Shailene Woodley

Director Alexander Payne's first film since Sideways continues his exploration of men disconnected from their lives. Centred on the tough choices Matt King (Clooney) must make after his wife is left in a coma, King is forced to reconnect with his two daughters, deal with his sick wife's

infidelity and shepherd a family land deal in their native Hawaii. The Descendants lays bare the raw and mixed emotions that come when making decisions without having all the answers.

O IAN GORMELY

## 

## Lauded director tackles Walesa

Andrzej Wajda, 85, says his new film on former Polish president will be the greatest challenge of his career

Oscar winner Andrzej Wajda said Thursday that his new film on former Polish president and Solidarity founder Lech Walesa will be his greatest challenge in 55 years as a director.

"This will be the most difficult movie I have made in my life," Wajda, 85, told a news conference. "I don't want to, but I have to," he said, quoting a line Walesa coined and often used while president in the early 1990s.

Wajda — the director of The Promised Land and Katyn — begins shooting Walesa on Dec. 1 in the Baltic port city of Gdansk, where in 1980 then-unemployed electrician Walesa seized the reins of a shipyard wage protest and turned it into a nationwide solidarity movement that helped lead to the downfall of communism a decade later. Wajda described Walesa as a hero who had a "true victory" in leading Poland out of decades of Moscow-imposed communism and into sovereignty, without any lives being lost. The director said documentary footage from the



Walesa-led strike in the Gdansk shipyard and the ensuing successful talks with communist authorities will be woven into the movie that is to debut in Poland in the fall of 2012.

Janusz Glowacki — an off-Broadway Polish playwright — has written the screenplay. Glowacki said the aim of his script is to portray Walesa as a "fascinating person," not build a monument to him. "I tried to put together things heroic with funny things," Glowacki said, adding that he wanted to show Walesa

as a "giant who stumbles, falls but then rises."

Polish actors Robert Wieckiewicz and Agnieszka Grochowska will play the roles of Walesa and his wife, Danuta. The movie will span the period between the worker street protests of 1970, in which Walesa took part, to his speech before the U.S. Congress in the fall of 1989, shortly after the end of communism in Poland and a year before he became the first popularly elected president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



### The Shame of NC-17

#### • Release of Shame reignites debate over racy rating

The NC-17 rated Shame poses an intriguing test for the much-lamented rating and stands a chance of being one of the most notable adults-only releases since Last Tango in Paris or Midnight Cowboy.

When Steve McQueen's film about a sex addict (Michael Fassbender) arrives in theatres Dec. 5, it will have already found enthusiastic debate at film festivals, largely laudatory reviews and a significant presence in the Oscar race, where Fassbender is considered a top contender for a best actor nomination.

Though most films tagged by the Motion Pictures Association of America with an NC-17 rating either protest the decision or edit down to an R-rating, Fox Searchlight (which acquired Shame at

#### **Ratings** pariah

- Cinemark, one of the largest movie theatre chains in the U.S., refuses to screen NC-17 rated films.
- Wal-Mart won't stock
   NC-17 rated DVDs.

the Toronto Film Festival) has accepted the NC-17 as fair.

"We're releasing it not because of (the rating), but perhaps in spite of it," says Stephen Gilula, copresident of Fox Searchlight. "We just think it's a film that deserves to be seen."

An NC-17 rating still poses challenges for Shame and Fox Searchlight, but some believe the stigma of the rating may be fading.

The rating, which re-

stricts anyone under the age of 18 from attending a movie, was created in 1990 after the X rating (which the MPAA had failed to trademark) was co-opted by the pornography industry.

Since then, the most successful NC-17 film at the box office has been 1995's Showgirls, which earned \$20.4 million and a great deal of scorn from critics.

On the whole, the rating has been taken by smaller, art-house films. Recent NC-17 releases have included Bernando Bertolucci's The Dreamers (2004, Fox Searchlight), Ang Lee's Lust, Caution (2007, Focus Features) and Pedro Almodovar's Bad Education (2004, Sony Pictures Classics).

"(Shame) is potentially an important step in the legitimate use of the NC- ► Michael Fassbender is getting best actor

17," says John Fithian, president of the National Association of Theatre Owners.

Oscar buzz for his role as a sex addict in Shame.

"There just aren't very many movies released in the NC-17 rating anymore. Filmmakers and movie studios are inappropriately afraid of the rating." Fithian says his association hopes to "eradicate the stigma" of NC-17, which he disputes. He calls the assertion that NC-17 films are limited in their advertising a myth.

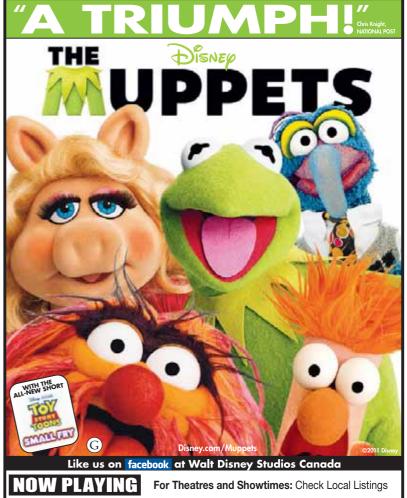
Advertising a NC-17 film on television is limited to certain hours. Most

newspapers will accept ads for a NC-17 film as long as they're tasteful.

"What we currently have is a system that's slightly flawed in the reluctance of filmmakers and distributors to use the NC-17," Fithian says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 25 TO THURS., DEC. 1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

#### HALIFAX

#### **BAYERS LAKE**

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake 902-876-4800

Arthur Christmas (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Sta-

dium Seating Fri-Thu 3:05-6:30-9:55

The Descendants (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:45-10:20

Happy Feet Two (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu

Happy Feet Two 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:10-7:50-10:10
Hugo (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-7:15-9:55

Hugo 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:40-10:20 Immortals (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seat-

ing Fri-Thu 1:05-3:35-7:05-9:35

J. Edgar (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating

Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:55-9:50

Jack and Jill (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:50-

4:10-7:50-10:10 The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seat-

ing Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:30

My Week With Marilyn (STC) Dolby
Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:25-7:10-

Puss in Boots (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:35-

Puss in Boots (G) bolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:35-36-33-9
Tower Heist (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:53-55-72:5-9:55
The Twiltight Saga: Breaking Dawn
Part 1 (STQ) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri
12:45-13:03-20-40-56-45-73:09-20-01:005 Dolby
Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 12:45-13:09-32-0-405
7:30-9:45-1005 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating
Sun-Thu 12:45-13:03-20-4:05-6:45-73:09-9:20-10:05

A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18) reo Fri-Thu 1:55-4:20-7:55-10:20

#### IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake 902-876-4800

Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45

#### **OXFORD THEATRE**

6408 Quinpool Rd. 902-423-7488

Fight Club (STC) Fri 11:59 Martha Marcy May Marlene (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 4-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 4-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 6:45-9:10

#### **PARK LANE**

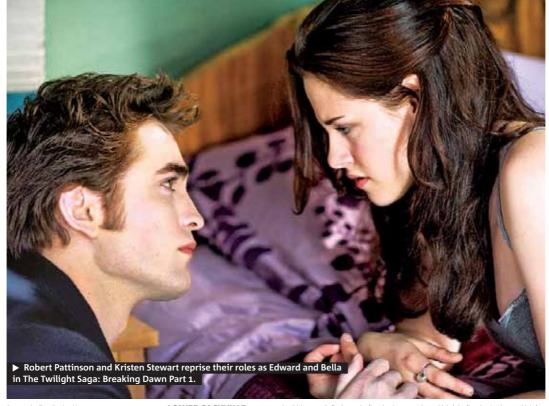
5657 Spring Garden Rd. 902-423-4860

Arthur Christmas (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:05 Stadium Seating Mon 4:05

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Stadium Seating

Fri-Sun 4:05-6:50-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon

Happy Feet Two (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-



Sun 1:15 Stadium Seating Mon 4:10

Happy Feet Two 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 4:10-7-9:35 Stadium Seating Mon 7-9:35 Hugo 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-6:35-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon 3:45-6:35-

J. Edgar (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:25-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon 3:25-6:25-

Jack & Jill (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7:15-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon 3:50-7:15-9:50 **Melanchotia** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:25-6:30-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon 3:25-

The Muppets (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:55-7:10-9:45 Stadium Seating Mon 3:55-7:10-9:45

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon 3:35-6:45-9:40

#### **LOWER SACKVILLE**

#### LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza 902-869-2022

**Arthur Christmas** (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:40-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seat-

ing Mon-Thu 6:40-9

Happy Feet Two (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium
Seating Sat-Sun 1:20

Happy Feet Two 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri 6:55-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 3:50-6:55-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:55-9:20 J. Edgar (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri

6:25-6:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:25-6:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:25-6:30

Jack and Jill (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:10-9:30 Dolby Ster

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Puss in Boots 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:20-6:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadi-um Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:35

#### **DARTMOUTH**

#### **DARTMOUTH CROSSING** 145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing

902-481-3251 **Arthur Christmas** (G) Digital, Dolby Stered Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu

tal, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:50 Happy Feet Two (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50 Happy Feet Two 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Sta-dium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10 Hugo (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadi-um Seating Fri-Thu 12:40

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digi-

um seating Fri-Thu 12:40 **Hugo 3D** (STQ) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:35-6:40-9:45 **Immortals** (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:3-4:13-7:13-0:15 Dig-ital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed

Tal, Down Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:15-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 J. Edgar (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-6:15-9:25

Jack and Jill (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-6:45-9:15 The Muppets (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital,

Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Puss in Boots (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital,

Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10

Puss in Boots 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital,
Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:50-7:40-10:30

Tower Heist (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital,

Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:20-9:10 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn
Part 1 (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu
1-47-10 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium
Seating, No Passes Fri 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:25-9:30-10:20 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sta-dium Seating, No Passes Sat

12:30-1:40-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:25-9:30-10:20 Digi-tal, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun-Thu 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:25-9:30-10:20

#### **TRURO**

**TRURO** 20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook 902-895-8020

Arthur Christmas (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 6:55-9:20 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun

Happy Feet Two (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 7-9:15 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:30 Jack and Jill (STC) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri

6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat-Sun 3:25-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Wed

**The Muppets** (G) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri 6:45-9:05 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat-Sun 3:15-6:45-9:05 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Wed

0.45-9.05 **Puss in Boots** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-8:50 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:20-6:40-8:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:40-8:50

Tower Heist (PG) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri 7-9:25 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat-Sun 3:10-7-9:25 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Wed 7-9:25 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:30-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 3-6:30-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Wed 6:30-9

#### **BRIDGEWATER**

#### BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 2:45 Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:30 Happy Feet Two (STC) No Passes Sat-Sun

Happy Feet Two 3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu

Immortals (STC) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:45 Jack and Jill (STC) Fri 6:35-8:50 Sat-Sun 2:35-6:35-8:50 Mon-Thu 6:35-8:50

The Muppets (G) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 3:05-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15 Puss in Boots (G) Sat-Sun 3:25 Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:05

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:55-6:30-9:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-

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### Which way to Carnegie Hall?

• Mraz talks about his journey and how his performances have found their way to the biggest venues on Earth

think the vocal performances are strong

(and) the themes tie together really well

on this album. I've always been a writer

that likes to explore the contradictions,

or the paradoxes, in life, or the balance

in life, and how all of it I

think is necessary, so this

new album just kinda car-

ries on that same path of



It's nighttime in Indonesia when we get Jason Mraz on the phone, although day broke just a few hours prior in New York.

Mraz is in Bali for his latest tour, which features just him and percussionist Toca Rivera performing at iconic venues like the Sydney Opera House and, this week, Carnegie Hall.

Mraz gave us some insight into these stripped-down shows.

#### How's your tour going so far?

I can't complain because we're in Bali at the moment, and I never thought that my tours would bring me here. The night before last we played in Taiwan to a captive crowd of 3,000 people. As a musician, you get spoiled when an audience

#### IN THE FUTURE

#### You have a new album set to come out in

Yeah, it's finally finished. It isn't a departure from anything that we've done in the past — there's certainly a new sound but it isn't a departure from the genre. The sound is rich in texture, I

gives you the silence that you crave. When there's a silent cavern for you to perform in, the sound truly exists in its truest form and I get off on that.

#### Why did you decide to play Carnegie Hall?

We really just tried to pick great locations and great venues that we've always wanted to play, because this isn't about promoting an album — we're just having an opportunity to put our music out there.

We could come to New York and play in any theatre or club, and our fans would come, but why of Carnegie Hall as well?

thought.

And for the musician, it's perhaps the pinnacle. It's what you to aspire to, to play in these historic venues.

I've played in more than one basketball court, and arena, and coliseum, but when you get to play in a venue that was created specifically for music or art, then the words, the lyrics — it's going to be so much more powerful in that space, as will the receiving of those words, the listening.

### Are things different when you play these songs now, as opposed to when you first wrote them?

#### Hall will be just for children. Do you have babies on the brain or something?

I don't have babies on the brain (laughs), but I have many friends who do have babies on their laps.

I've written a few songs in the past couple of years that I've set aside because I've said, "These sound like they belong on a kids album."

Reintroducing these songs in a kids show seems like the best place to test the material out before I do dive into something like a kids album, which I think will show up in the next couple of years.

It's not that I wanna make an album for kids, it's that I wanna make an album for the parents who I know have to listen to kids albums a thousand times in a row.

My brother, for instance, who has a fiveyear-old son, we get in the car and the most abcomes on and the song is on repeat — I don't know what it is, but it's all like noise and bells and whistles and goofy voices and stuff, so I have compassion for him and wanna make an album for that.

#### You have a new album set to come out in 2012?

Yeah, it's finally finished. It isn't a departure from anything that we've done in the past — there's certainly a new sound but it isn't a departure from the genre. The sound is rich in texture, I think the vocal performances are strong (and) the themes tie together really well on this album. I've always been a writer that likes to explore the contradictions, or the paradoxes, in life, or the balance in life, and how all of it I think is necessary, so this new album just kinda carries on that same path of thought.



#### RECORD STORE NOSTALGIA THICK FOR AUDIOPHILES

#### SOUND **CHECK**



s CD sales continue to crater, record stores have to reinvent themselves. Naturally, some of us

grow misty at what

record store shopping used to be like.

#### No. 1: Separate sections for vinyl, CDs and pre-recorded cassettes

People forgot that prerecorded cassettes were briefly better sellers than vinyl or CDs. Back in the middle '80s, if you couldn't find that album on one format, chances are you'd find it in one of the other sections.

#### No. 2: The 45 section

I used to spend hours flipping through the singles



section at Sam the Record Man. I couldn't afford full albums but I could afford a 99-cent 45. This store had rows and rows and rows of them. Funny how the price hasn't changed.

#### No. 3: The longbox

Retailers initially resisted stocking CDs because they had spent millions on shelving displays for both vinyl and cassettes. Now the labels wanted more investment in new shelving?

A compromise was reached in the form of the "longbox," wasteful paper and/or plastic packaging that was about as wide as a CD but 12 inches long. This meant two rows of CDs could occupy the same bin space as one row of albums. The worst ones were all-plastic heat-sealed ones that required industrial tinsnips to open.

No. 4: Midnight Record Sales In the days before the Internet, the only way to be the first of your friends to own the new album from your favourite group was

to line up outside the record store on the day it came out. If the album was big enough, stores would stay open past midnight and at 12:01am on the release day, they'd let everyone in to buy the record.

#### No. 5: The big record catalogue

Somewhere in these old record stores was a giant catalogue of available albums and singles across all genres. Generally it was clamped to a heavy stand somewhere that the clerks could make sure that no one was ripping out pages. This is where one would look to see if a record that wasn't in stock was even available. If it was, you'd order it by its catalogue number. If you were lucky, you'd have the record in a couple of weeks.

Ouaint, I know, but I still miss this stuff.

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### Hell on Wheels is an 'important show'

#### • Common plays a slave in role that defies stereotypes about slavery

The history of slavery in America is a history of resistance and rebellion. Yet, movies and TV do not always showcase those themes.

That's one reason why the rapper Common is excited about AMC's new series, Hell on Wheels, a Western that chronicles the building of the transcontinental railroad.

Common plays mixedraced former slave Elam Ferguson, who works on the rail system.

Portraying a slave, he says, is a big deal, particularly because his character defies the stereotypes often seen in films and television.

"A lot of times we've seen slaves obviously going through so much pain and trouble, they were op-

#### N-word

- One experience in filming the show was really difficult for Common: when white cast members used the N-word.
- "Even if you try to think that they're acting, it still just doesn't feel right," he says. "You get that feeling like, 'Man, this is not good."

pressed and downtrodden, so it was more of a lower position. (My character) has been through a lot of things, but is holding his head up high and his shoulders are up strong," says Common, who was born Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr.

At first, Common says he



wasn't interested in a TV role, but then his agent suggested he read the script for Hell on Wheels. Common says it's the first time he has played a character so complex.

The Grammy-winning entertainer researched by

reading about African slaves of the 19th century and visiting former plantations in South.

He calls his journey "deep" and "heavy."

"I feel blessed that I'm able to represent what a black man, what a black person was at that time," he says, "but it definitely was some weight and some pain."

The series, which airs Sundays at 10 p.m. ET, was filmed in Canada.

It centres on Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount), a

former Confederate soldier and slaveholder who is avenging the death of his wife.

Bonhannon set his slaves free a year before the Civil War. He takes a job overseeing the workers on the transcontinental railroad, which includes Elam Ferguson (Common).

Common, who appeared in Smokin' Aces, American Gangster and Terminator Salvation, and does a voice in Happy Feet Two, says the show focuses on issues that still exist in today's world.

"Things that we try to hide and put under the table, things that we act like, 'Oh no, that's not how I feel' — some of that is still there from hundreds of years back. It's still in us and we've got to remove it," he says.

"Along with it just being entertaining and being fresh — it's an important show." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





### A full-bellied appreciation

#### ▶ History of food, pleasures of eating detailed in Adam Gopnik's new book ▶ It is linked to his book on winter

Acclaimed New Yorker essayist Adam Gopnik toured Canada recently to deliver Massey Lectures on his chosen theme, winter, and he

returned this week to talk about another subject close to his heart — food.

Winter: Five Windows on the Season was written

simultaneously with The Table Comes First: Family, France and the Meaning of Food, and Gopnik allows that related engagements have kept him on the go for several weeks now.

In addition to keeping their author busy, the books are "linked or allied," he said in an interview at his publisher's office.

"They're both very much about — how can I put this? — the elaboration of meaning in places where you wouldn't expect a lot of meaning to arise: In what previously had been seen as a bleak and forbidding season, winter, and what previously before modern times had often been seen as a human necessity rather than a human desire, as a need rather than as a desire."

In modern times, people stand at the window and watch snowstorms, he said, and they sit at the table with their families. If they're lucky, there is an abundance of food and they have to decide what to do with it.

Gopnik, 55, is an American who spent many of his formative years in Montreal, and his parents and wife, son and daughter have Canadian citizenship. His scientist mother has been a huge influence in his appreciation of food.

"It's not so much the recipes that she taught me, the 'do this, do that,' it's that your nerve endings become attuned to the nerve endings of your mentor. I'm never scared by a recipe. I can sort of visualize my mother beating egg whites

COMES FIRST

or making a creme anglaise or something like that."

MEANING FOOD

DAM GOPNIK

In the book, he declares that he loves to eat — simple food, fancy food, eating out, eating at home.

Now that the weather has turned colder, Gopnik surmised that people across North America are spending more time in their kitchens and dining rooms.

In fact, he said the kitchen is the place where people do a lot of their serious eating and talking, whipping up scrambled eggs at 11:30 at night or having their "Dad, I'm gay," conversations.

HE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Third time's the charm for Brit?

Rumour has it Britney's beau is shopping for an engagement ring Don't expect anything too bling — source says ring is 'classy and under four carats'

Britney Spears may be gearing up to tie the knot for the third time, as her boyfriend, Jason Trawick, is reportedly close to finding the perfect engagement ring for the singer, according to Radar On-

"He has been everywhere from Tiffany to Harry Winston looking for a ring and he is close to making his final decision," a source says.

"Don't expect anything too massive or obnoxious. This ring will be classy and under four carats."

And a wedding for the two is reportedly just a matter of when, not if, according to another

"Britney and Jason LINA discuss marriage all the time. Britney is truly in love with Jason, and well, Jason has loved her for a very, very long time."

source.

"Britney and Jason discuss marriage all the time. Britney is truly in love with Jason, and well, Jason has loved her for a very, very long time."





## Yeater's camp still 'Beliebers'

It looked like Justin Bieber's paternity suit drama was over, but now lawvers for Mariah Yeater say the young mother is ready to compare her 4month-old son's DNA with Bieber's, Jeffrey Leving, attorney, tells Yeater's

And Leving and his team

already seem to be planting the seeds for a defence if the results don't come back in their favour, as Leving notes that no one from their team was present when Bieber took his DNA test last week, so they can't say for sure it was done properly or is valid.





# Birthday girls heart unicorns

Miley Cyrus celebrated her 19th birthday in style with a lavish private party at the nightclub Beacher's Madhouse inside the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, according to Us Weekly.

"Her mom, Tish, went and so did her boyfriend, Liam [Hemsworth]," source says of the party, which was put together by pal Kelly Osbourne.

"The group was up until

3 a.m. just dancing up a storm and having fun.

Cyrus definitely seemed pleased, calling the event 'the best party ever" on Twitter.

"Let's just say there was a unicorn in the lobby," she tweeted.

And according to E! News, there was in fact a horse with a horn attached to its head inside the party. METRO

#### **Celebrity tweets**

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."



I don't wanna be shaped like a girl I LOVE being shaped like a WOMAN & trust me ladies your man wont mind either ;)



Was wrestling my 6 yr old yesterday. He elbowed me in

the teeth so hard that I spat out bits of my newly chipped front tooth.





#### Not into football?



Those of you who aren't settling in for an evening of gridiron gratification on Sunday still have options. MovieTime has Anchorman: The Leaend of Ron Burgundy, IFC is airing 2001's cult favourite Wet Hot American Summer, and Bravo has 2007's Knocked Up. THE CANADIAN PRESS



surprising find

## Great eats on Grey Cup day

• Game day is all about food, friends and football Try some tasty variations on pulled pork This Grey Cup recipe can be prepared ahead of time so you can enjoy the game

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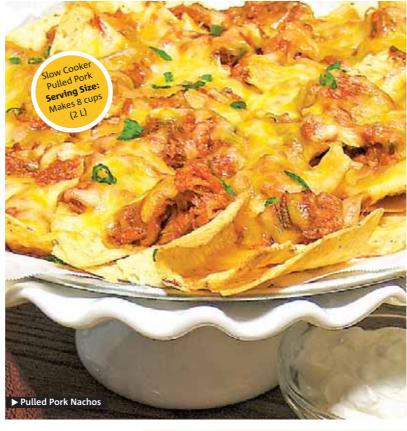
It's game time! Pull out your tortilla chips for this Grey Cup recipe. When

watching the game this Sunday and rooting for the B.C. Lions or Winnipeg Blue Bombers, enjoy some delicious food that can be made ahead of time and enjoyed with family and friends during the game.

#### Slow Cooker **Pulled Pork Preparation:**

This pulled pork is perfect for a crowd and can be enjoyed on buns as sandwiches or spooned over fries, then sprinkled with cheese and baked for pulled pork poutine. My new game favourite is enjoying pulled pork nachos.

- In slow cooker, whisk together passata, onion, sugar, Worcestershire sauce and garlic; set
- In small bowl, combine oil, chilli powder, dry mustard, salt and pepper. Rub all over pork roast to coat..
- Heat large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat and brown pork



roast on all sides. Place in slow cooker. Turn to 10 hours or on high for 4 to 6 hours or until pork is fork tender. Remove roast from slow cooker and using 2 forks, shred meat and remove fat. Return pork to slow cooker and stir to coat with sauce

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#### **Slow Cooker Pulled Pork Inaredients:**

- 1 jar (680 mL) tomato passata (strained tomatoes)
- · 1 onion, grated
- 1/3 cup (80 mL) packed brown sugar
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) Worcester-
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) chilli powder
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) dry mustard
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each salt and pepper
- 1 pork shoulder roast, about 3 lb/1.5 kg

#### **Liquid Assets**



PETER ROCKWELL WITTER: @THEREALWINEGUV

I don't come to football naturally. I'm much more of a baseball kind of guy. But thanks to my in-laws' passion for the game I've learned to appreciate the art that goes into throwing the old pigskin around.

While many of you will be toasting this year's face-off with a beer, I prefer a glass of vino or two.

Taking a cue from each team's colours (and knowing that cheesy nachos will be on the menu), I went searching for a couple of similarly dressed liquids.

To represent the Bombers my pick is the Schmitt Söhne 2010 Relax Riesling

(\$11.95 -

¥

\$14.29), a fast foodfriendly German white with a sweet, soft apple personality and groovy, cobalt blue bottle.

To support the Lions, the orange labelled Barefoot Cellars Shiraz (\$9.99 - \$10.99), which offers up soft, lightly spiced jammy berry fruit, works well with eclectic cuisine.

PETER ROCKWELL IS THE EVERY-MAN'S WINE WRITER, WORKING IN THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS AND TRAV-ELLING THE GLOBE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO FILL HIS GLASS

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# Satisfy your family with one easy recipe

● Ingredients that kids are familiar with makes dinner a breeze ● Try Parmesan Chicken with Rice Krispies that you can whip up in no time

#### **Ingredients:**

- 750 mL (3 cups) Rice Krispies, crushed to make 375 mL (1 1/2 cups)
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) dried basil leaves
- 1 mL (1/4 tsp) dried oregano leaves
- 30 mL (2 tbsp) melted butter
- 1 egg or 2 egg whites
- 75 mL (1/3 cup) 2% milk
- 75 mL (1/3 cup) allpurpose flour
- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) salt
- 6 boneless skinless chicken breasts about (1 kg/2 lbs total)



"In order to satisfy everyone, stick to one simple but delicious dish that you know everyone will love," says Trish Magwood, award-winning cookbook author of In My Mother's Kitchen, and mom of three.

"Choose a dish that appeals to adults and kids, rather than trying to make numerous dishes. You will be pleasantly surprised to see how much time it saves."

This Parmesan Chicken recipe, a favourite with families, is easy to prepare and cooks in no time.

Best of all, it uses fridge and pantry staples, including Rice Krispies, that give it that irresistible crunch.

#### **Preparation:**

1 In large plate or shallow pan, combine crushed

cereal, Parmesan cheese, basil and oregano. Stir in melted butter.

- In bowl, beat egg and milk slightly. Stir in flour and salt; mix until smooth. Dip chicken in batter, then coat with cereal mixture. Place in single layer on foil or parchment lined baking sheet.
- Bake in 180°C (350°F) oven for about 35 minutes or until no longer pink in centre. (Do not cover or turn chicken while cooking).

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# sports

#### **More sports**



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STREAK ON SUNDAY WHEN
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ARE A GAME AND A HALF BEHIND THE NATIONAL BASKET-

BALL LEAGUE OF CANADA-LEADING LONDON LIGHTNING, WHO ARE 6-2.

## Provincial scales levelling

 Mooseheads get back-to-back wins against Screaming Eagles for first time in almost four years
 MacKinnon shines in first-star performance with a goal and an assist



The Halifax Mooseheads are finally showing some fight in what has been a heavily one-sided Battle of Nova Scotia.

The Mooseheads earned a tidy 4-1 win over the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles at the Metro Centre on Thursday night, giving them their first back-to-back wins over their provincial rivals in almost four years. The Screaming Eagles had won an astonishing 24 of the past 26 head-to-head matchups between the two teams.

"The past couple of years, we've really struggled, especially against Cape Breton in the Battle of Nova Scotia," said Mooseheads third-year centre Brent Andrews. "It definitely feels good to get back on the horse and get back in the win column, that's for sure."

Rookie centre Nathan MacKinnon was all over the ice in a first-star performance, finishing with a goal and an assist along with a game-high six shots. He kick-started the offence in the first period, scoring on a breakaway at 9:09 and getting an assist on a nice drop pass to Matthew



"We've got to approach it the same as any other game, whether we're playing the first-place team or a team that's not doing so well. We've got to approach it head on and give our best effort."

MOOSEHEADS CENTRE BRENT ANDREWS, ON FACING THE LAST-PLACE P.E.I. ROCKET ON FRIDAY AT 7 P.M. AT THE METRO CENTRE

Boudreau for a goal three minutes later.

The 16-year-old from Cole Harbour had a handful of other highlight-reel plays, getting a rise out of the crowd of 5,152.

"On one play, he deked four guys out ... I think he had a good meal before coming here tonight or something," said Boudreau, who added an assist and picked up second-star honours. "He really wanted the two points tonight and so did everyone else."

Cameron Critchlow and

Brad Cuzner had Halifax's other goals, with Cuzner scoring his third goal in as many games against his former team. The Screaming Eagles waived him in August.

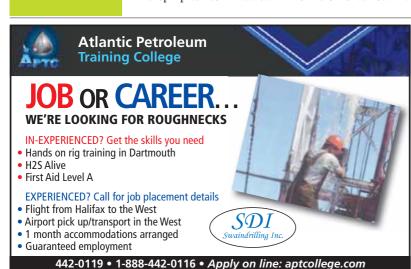
Rookie goalie Zach Fucale had his shutout bid broken by Dany Potvin at 9:28 of the third but made 19 saves for the win. Halifax peppered Eagles stopper Philippe Trudeau with 35 shots.

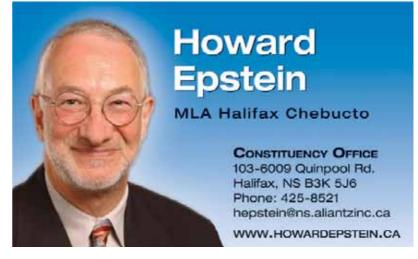
The Mooseheads, who played one man short because of injuries on defence to Trey Lewis and Steve Gillard, have won three of their past four games and are sixth overall

at 16-7-2. They host the last-place Prince Edward Island Rocket on Friday at 7 p.m.

For weekend Mooseheads coverage, follow Ametroafiles on Twitter or visit the Q Files blog at metronews.ca/afiles







## Suh shows aggression in defeat

#### • Defensive tackle ejected as Lions fall to undefeated Packers amid slew of injuries, penalties

Ndamukong Suh was on the ground, entangled with the Green Bay lineman who had blocked him down. As Suh got up, the Detroit All-Pro pinned Evan Dietrich-Smith's head against the turf, then was pushed off of him.

What happened next will only fuel the discussion about whether Suh's aggressive play too often crosses the line.

Suh stepped down hard with his right foot, appearing to make contact with Dietrich-Smith's right arm, and the Detroit star was ejected from the Lions' 27-15 loss to the unbeaten Packers on Thursday. As much as the Lions have accomplished this season, this was another Thanksgiving nightmare, full of injuries, turnovers and undisciplined play.

"I want to apologize to my teammates, my coaches and my true fans for allowing the refs to have an opportunity to take me out of this game," Suh said. "What I did was remove myself from the situation the best way I felt, with me being held down.'

Suh apologized, but the powerful defensive tackle was quick to defend himself, saying he was trying to keep his balance while freeing himself from the brief

11 The Lions committed 11 penalties for 82 yards, including three important ones in Green Bay territory early on.

"My intention was not to kick anybody, as I did not, removing myself," he said. "I was on top of a guy, being pulled down, and trying to get up off the ground -

and why you see me pushing his helmet down, because I'm trying to remove myself from the situation, and as I'm getting up, I'm getting pushed, so I'm getting myself on balance."

Suh's third-quarter dismissal helped turn a close game into a rout. It came on third down when the Lions appeared to have forced

Green Bay to settle for a field goal. Instead, the Packers scored a touchdown moments later, taking a 14-0 lead on John Kuhn's run. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



#### **Sports in brief**

#### **All-Canadian** nod for Squires

CIS FOOTBALL. Halifax's Mike Squires, a receiver with the Acadia Axemen, was named a first-team all-Canadian on Thursday. Freshman cornerback Kavin Marchand-Wright of the Saint Mary's Huskies also cracked the first-team lineup, while Huskies fourth-year defensive end Rob Jubenville earned a second-team nod. 

metro

#### **Crossley on** way to IIHF **U-18** tournev

**HOCKEY.** Alexis Crossley of Cole Harbour is among 22 players on Canada's roster

for the IIHF world under-18 women's hockey championship from Dec. 31 to Jan. 7 in Prerov and Zlin, Czech Republic. Crossley, who was a standout for Nova Scotia at the 2011 Canada Games in Halifax, is a blueliner at Shattuck-St. Mary's prep school. • metro

#### **NBL Canada** gets commish

**BASKETBALL.** The National Basketball League of Canada has its first commissioner, naming John Kennedy to the job on Thursday, Kennedy takes over for Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston. who held the job on an interim basis since May. Kennedy, from Windsor, Ont., previously worked in sports and

entertainment marketing.



WagJag.com

## Wild ride for one goalie

Paul Deutsch's pals in his recreational hockey league needed to find a replacement goalie Wednesday night. The 51-year-old embroidery-shop owner was going to be suiting up for another team: the NHL's Minnesota Wild.

The Wild signed Deutsch to an amateur try-

out contract to serve as an emergency backup to starter Josh Harding for Wednesday's game against the Nashville Predators.

"Pretty nervous and I just want to make sure I don't do anything stupid," Deutsch said. "Stay out of their way and do what I'm supposed to do ... and let

the guys fire away."

Deutsch was signed after Niklas Backstrom was declared out for personal reasons. Matt Hackett was recalled from Houston, but his flight wasn't scheduled to land in the Twin Cities until about 6:30 p.m. and the Wild couldn't risk being short a goaltender.

Deutsch's shot at playing in an NHL game ended almost as quickly as it started, though. Hackett arrived at the arena just before the 7 p.m. game time and Deutsch was scratched. But he did participate in pre-game warmups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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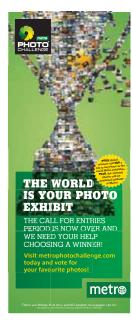
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## **Grasping for greatness**

- Halifax's Morley 'overwhelmed' heading into biggest game of his life
- Blue Bombers-Lions prepare for Sunday's Grev Cup showdown



It took a while, but Steve Morley's decision to sign with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers three years ago has paid off.

Back then, the Blue Bombers were far from a contender, and the hulking six-foot-seven offensive lineman from Halifax toiled through two tough nonplayoff years with just seven and four wins.

But this season, Morley and a resurgent Blue Bombers squad stormed to the top of the East Division and are now preparing to face the B.C. Lions in the Grey Cup on Sunday at 7 p.m. in Vancouver.

"We surprised a lot of people this year, but we didsurprise ourselves, showing we're a team to be reckoned with, and we're coming for the Grey Cup," Morley said on Wednesday. "It's just a great feeling to go from the bottom to the top in a couple of years."
The 30-year-old has

played a key role for the Blue Bombers, particularly in last week's 19-3 semifinal win over the Hamilton Tiger Cats. Winnipeg ran the ball 40 times, with run-



ning back Chris Garrett getting all kinds of space and piling up 190 yards and a touchdown.

"It was a big game for our offensive line," said Morley, who was selected first overall by the Calgary Stampeders in the 2003 CFL draft after an outstanding career with the Saint Mary's Huskies.

"We opened up a lot of holes and gave our team a chance to get to the Grey Cup. We know that to be successful in the Grey Cup,

#### Did you know?

Steve Morley finished his NFL career three games short of earning a full pension, but he took it in

"If it wasn't meant to be, it wasn't meant to be. I don't mind working for a living," he once said.

we have to do the exact same thing against a tough B.C. opponent."

Morley has played pro for nine seasons, including NFL stops with the Green Bay Packers, New York Jets and Seattle Seahawks. Although his two Vanier Cups at Saint Mary's are a career highlight, nothing would top helping Winnipeg win its first title since 1990.

"It's just an overwhelming feeling, being here," he said. "This is the biggest game of my career. Fiftyfive thousand strong in B.C. .... It just doesn't get any bigger than this in Canada."

## **Some Lions facing Grey Cup last call**





BOMBERS

LIONS

Time: 7 p.m. TV: TSN

When opportunity knocks, the B.C. Lions haven't always answered.

Some very good Lions teams have missed chances to play in the Grey Cup and that's why Sunday's big game against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers is especially important to a number of club's

older players. Receiver Paris Jackson broke into the league in 2003. He played on the

LIONS DB KOREY BANKS

Cup."

"I'd rather not

make the playoffs

than lose the Grey

B.C. team that lost the 2004 Grey Cup and was a member of the last Lions championship squad in 2006.

"I was thinking every two years we would be in the Grey Cup," Jackson said Thursday as he ate salad and sandwiches with his teammates at a luncheon.

"Now I'm 31 years old and it's been five years since we've been to a Grey Cup. You have to cherish these moments."

Defensive back Korey Banks won a Grey Cup in

his first year with B.C. in 2006. Since then the Lions have played in four division finals but their only win came this year against Edmonton.

"I could play 10 more years in the league and might not reach a Grey Cup again," said the 32-year-old Banks.

"It's a blessing (to reach the Grey Cup) but it's only a blessing for one team Sunday. I want to be on that team. It's all about winning. It will hurt more if you don't win."

The luncheon was a casual affair, with players and

some porters sharing tables. Linebacker

Anton McKenzie his used BlackBerry to

take pictures of teammates being interviewed. Centre Angus Reid grabbed a microphone and did his own interviews.

The Lions have 14 players over 30 years old. For some, winning a Grey Cup could be now or never.

"With the younger players ignorance is bliss in a way," said 35-year-old defensive tackle Brent Johnson. "You think there is going to be a lot more opportunities.

"That doesn't always pan out." The canadian press

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4 - Pinkett Smith

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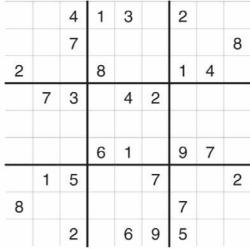
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48 Belle of the

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Yesterday's answer ▶ 3

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47 Feathery neck-

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Done

52 Sindbad's bird

54 Despondent

55 Blond shade

58 Bumped into

1 Destruction

2 Hebrew letter

57 Tackle's teammate

56 Surround

53 "Tinker to - to

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piece

¥ Taurus April 21-May 21 You don't need to stoop to underhand methods to realize your ambitions. II Gemini May 22-June 21

Make sure you express yourself today. Let everyone know how you feel, be it good or bad.

Gancer June 22-July 22 You don't have time for fun and games - you have serious issues to deal with and you know if you don't crack on with them now they may

never get done.

Ω Leo July 23-Aug.23 By all means take a few risks today W Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Try not to let your emotions get the better of you today, especially on the home front where a loved one's actions may annoy you intensely.

 ← Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Don't impose restrictions on yourself, and don't let other people tell you what you can and cannot do. M Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Money matters of one sort or another will be much on your mind

₹ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

50 "- Misérables"

51 Exist

21 You may be eager to start something new and that's great, but don't just throw yourself at it

り Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 As today's eclipse falls in the most sensitive area of your chart you'll want to be on your own for a

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You seem to be having second thoughts about an issue you once had no doubts about at all. H Pisces Feb. 19-March 20.

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